CAPTAIN ATOM
CDC
84
JUNE
12¢
CAPTAIN ATOM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
The GHOST returns! in "FURY of the FACELESS FOE"
PLUS... THE ALL-NEW ADVENTURES OF THE BLUE BEETLE
DITKO + ROCKE

CAPT. ATOM

THE GHOST IS BACK! AND TIME NEARLY RUNS OUT FOR THE MAN OF THE ATOM AND THE DARLING OF DARKNESS BEFORE THEY LEARN THE REASON FOR...

THE FURY of the FACELESS FOE

SCRIPT: DAVE KALER
PENCILS: STEVE DITKO
INKS: ROCKE MASTROSERIO
LETTERING: A. MACHINE

8-683

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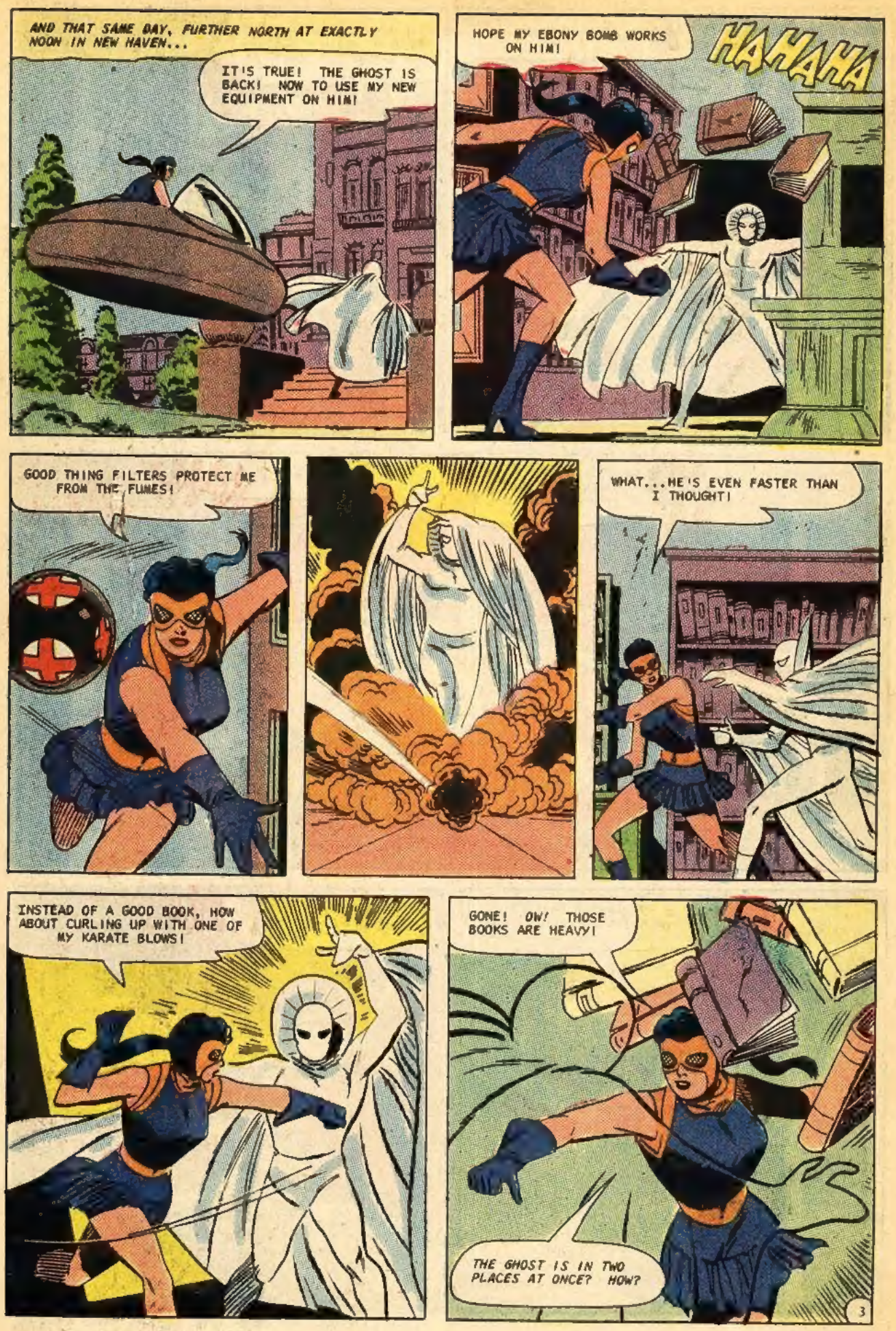
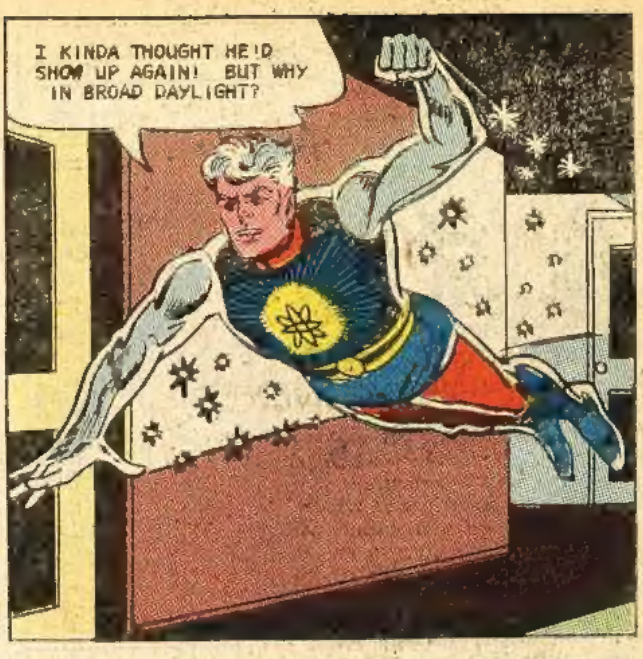
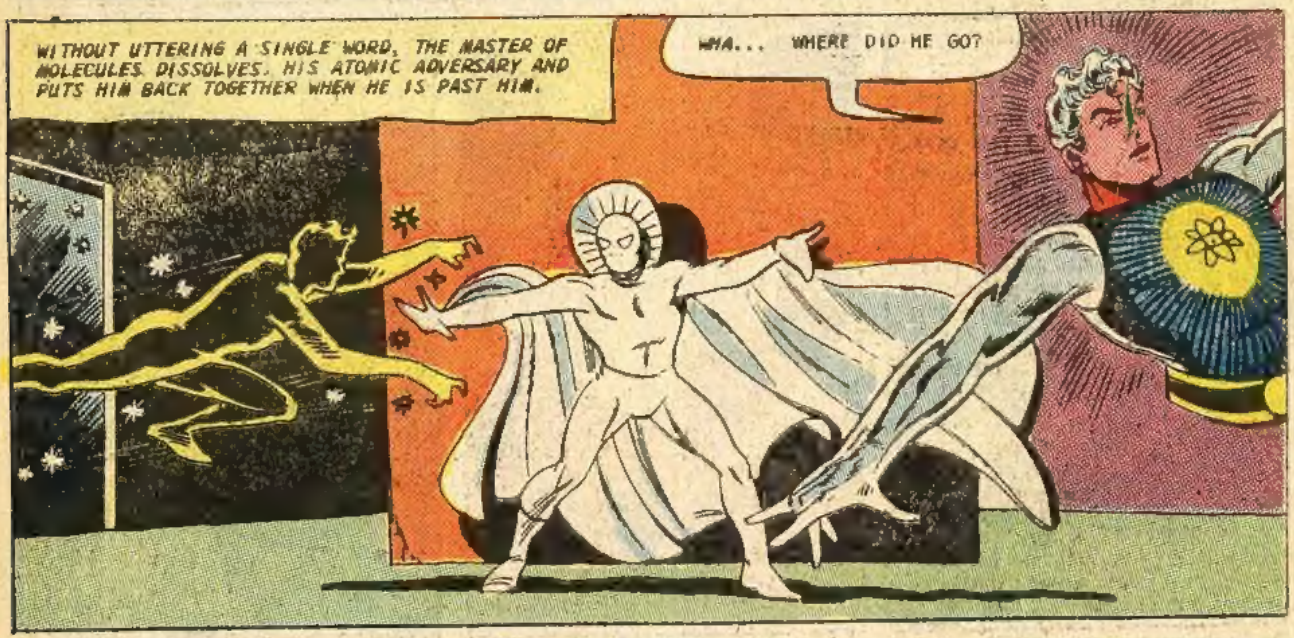
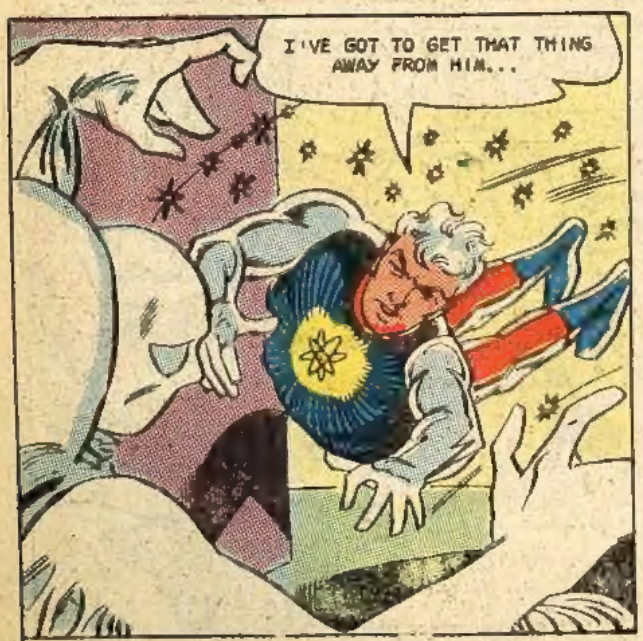
TIME: NOON!
PLACE: TIMES SQUARE!
OCCASION: THE RETURN OF THE GHOST!
WHAT'S HE DOING...? GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! RUN! HELP! POLICE!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M NOT STAYING TO FIND OUT!
SOMEBODY HELP ME! POLICE!
HAHAHAHA
THEN, JUST AS SUDDENLY AS HE APPEARED, THE TAMER OF TELEPORTATION FADES AWAY!
HE'S DISAPPEARING!
IT WAS THE GHOST!
HAHAHA
2


AND THAT SAME DAY, FURTHER NORTH AT EXACTLY NOON IN NEW HAVEN...
IT'S TRUE! THE GHOST IS BACK! NOW TO USE MY NEW EQUIPMENT ON HIM!
HOPE MY EBONY BOMB WORKS ON HIM!
HAHAHA
GOOD THING FILTERS PROTECT ME FROM THE FUMES!
WHAT...HE'S EVEN FASTER THAN I THOUGHT!
INSTEAD OF A GOOD BOOK, HOW ABOUT CURLING UP WITH ONE OF MY KARATE BLOWS!
GONE! OW! THOSE BOOKS ARE HEAVY!
THE GHOST IS IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE? HOW?
3




WITHOUT UTTERING A SINGLE WORD, THE MASTER OF MOLECULES DISSOLVES, HIS ATOMIC ADVERSARY AND PUTS HIM BACK TOGETHER WHEN HE IS PAST HIM.
WHA... WHERE DID HE GO?



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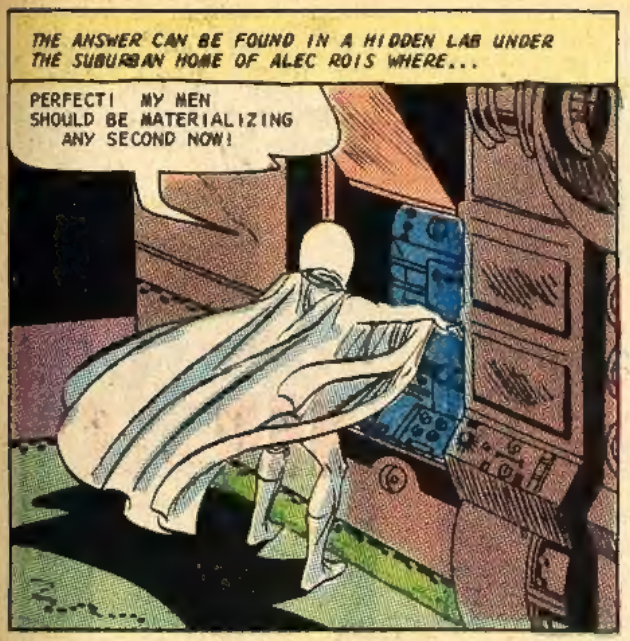
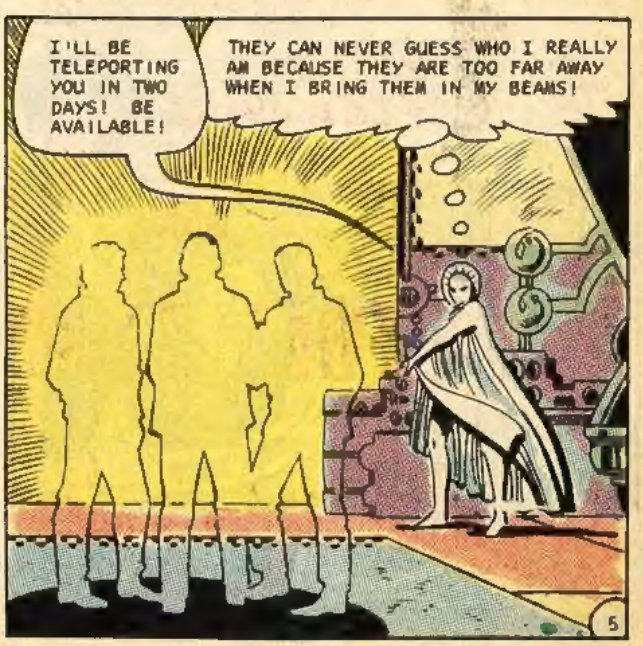

THE ANSWER CAN BE FOUND IN A HIDDEN LAB UNDER THE SUBURBAN HOME OF ALEC ROIS WHERE...
PERFECT! MY MEN SHOULD BE MATERIALIZING ANY SECOND NOW!

GOOD WORK, MEN! I WAS ABLE TO RADIO CONTROL YOUR TELEPORTATION BEAMS PERFECTLY! IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS I THAT WAS IN ACTION!

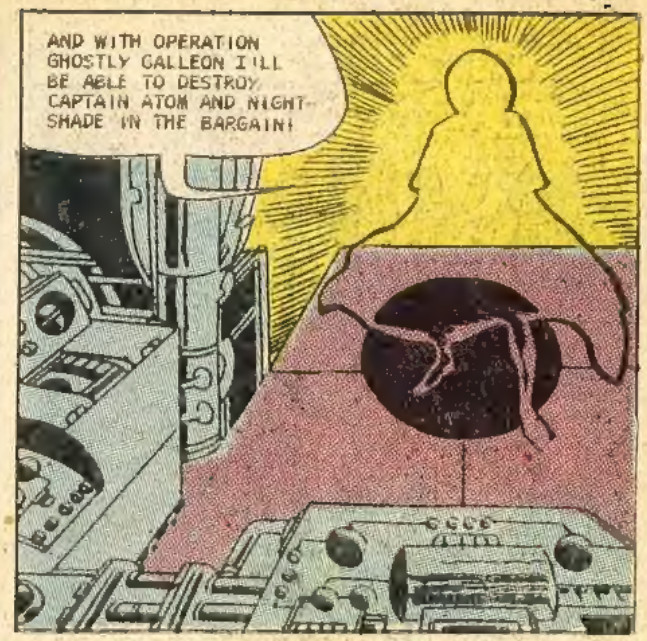
CAREFUL WITH THE MINI-TRANSMITTERS! WITHOUT THEM, I COULDN'T SEE YOU IN ACTION AND WORK WITH THE TELEBEAMS!

HA! NOW LET THEM FIGURE OUT HOW I WAS IN *THREE* PLACES AT ONCE!

A FEW MORE WELL-PLANNED APPEARANCES AND THEY'LL BE EASY TO LEAD INTO A TRAP!


I'LL BE TELEPORTING YOU IN TWO DAYS! BE AVAILABLE!
THEY CAN NEVER GUESS WHO I REALLY AM BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO FAR AWAY WHEN I BRING THEM IN MY BEAMS!
5

WITH THE GHOST DEVICES I STOLE FROM PUNCH AND JEWELEE, I'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALL THE GOLD I WANT!
SEE CAPTAIN ATOM #85.


AND WITH OPERATION GHOSTLY GALLEON I'LL BE ABLE TO DESTROY CAPTAIN ATOM AND NIGHT-SHADE IN THE BARGAIN!

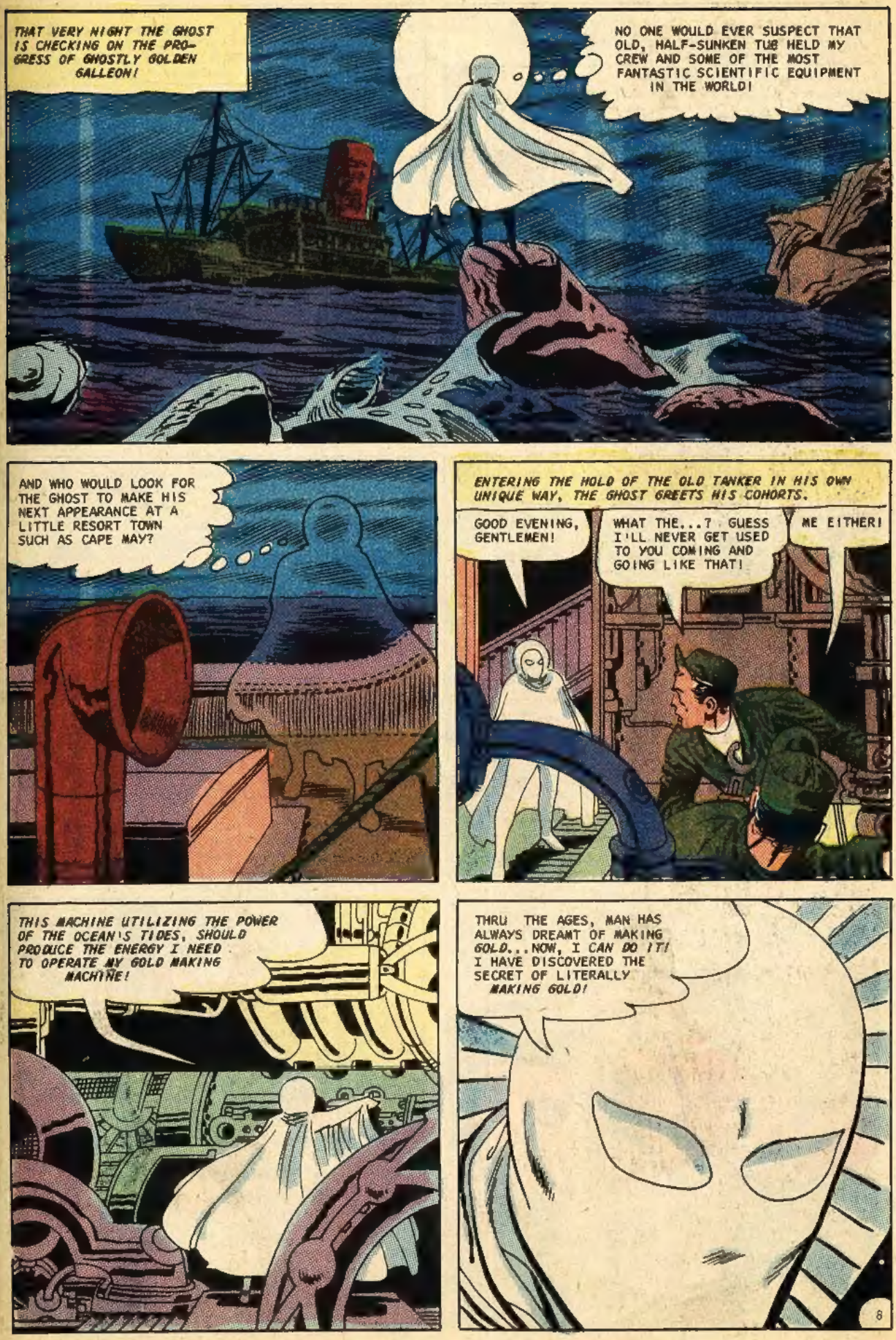
THE NEXT MORNING THE GHOST'S ACTIONS MADE THE HEADLINES... AND AN UPROAR IN THE PENTAGON!
WHAT'S HE UP TO? WHERE WILL HE STRIKE NEXT?
GHOST

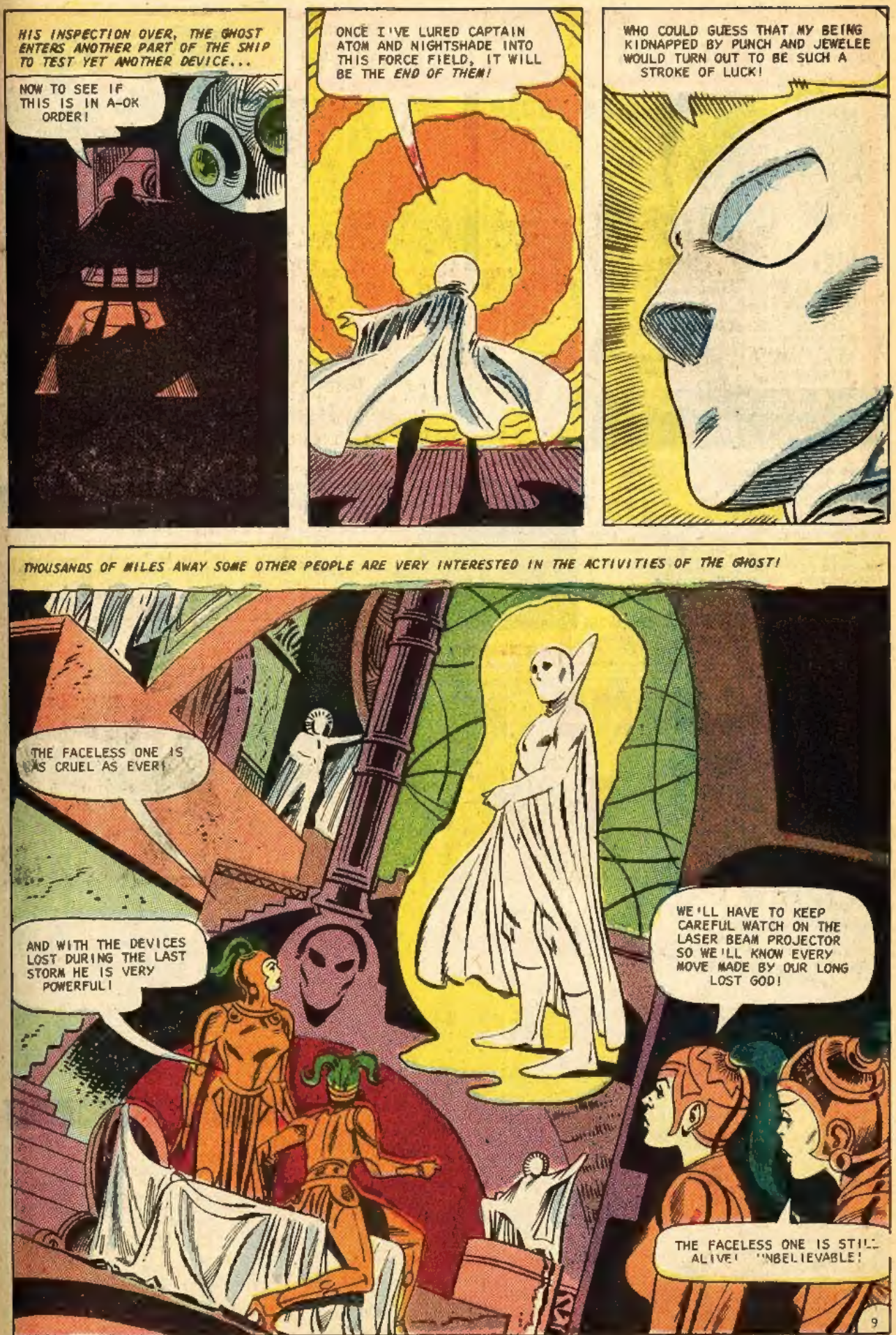
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS HOW CAN HE BE IN THREE PLACES AT THE SAME TIME!
...AND HOW CAN WE DO SOMETHING TO UPSET THAT TELEPORTATION GISMO OF HIS!

WITHOUT KNOWING HOW THE BEAM WORKS, WE CAN'T BUILD A "JAMMING" DEVICE! HE'S FREE TO COME AND GO AS HE PLEASES! WE'RE HELPLESS!

WE'LL NEVER CATCH THAT DISAPPEARING DEMON!
FATE HELPED US THE LAST TIME! IF HE SLIPS UP THIS TIME, WE'VE GOT TO BE THERE WHEN HE DOES!

BUT THE GHOST ISN'T THE ONLY PROBLEM OUR DUO HAS TO WORRY ABOUT! HERE WE HAVE ABBY LADD, INFLUENTIAL LADY NEWS HOUND...
I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE! BUNGLER! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE GHOST?
FOR ALL YOUR TALENTS, YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE THE POWER OF FLASH LIGHT BATTERIES AGAINST HIM!
HEE, HEE!
DON'T LAUGH! YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANY BETTER ...YOU CAN'T CATCH HIM EITHER!
AND IF YOU CAN'T STOP HIM, I'LL ASK MY FATHER TO TALK TO SENATOR EDEN ABOUT INVESTIGATING YOUR DEPARTMENT!
THAT SUPER SPOOK...OR WHATEVER HE IS, HAS GOT TO BE STOPPED! AND IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, THE PUBLIC WANTS TO KNOW WHY!
WHATEVER THAT SHE-CAT SAYS, DON'T LET IT FAZE YOU! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HE STRIKES AGAIN TO STOP HIM!


THAT VERY NIGHT THE GHOST IS CHECKING ON THE PROGRESS OF GHOSTLY GOLDEN GALLEON!
NO ONE WOULD EVER SUSPECT THAT OLD, HALF-SUNKEN TUB HELD MY CREW AND SOME OF THE MOST FANTASTIC SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT IN THE WORLD!
AND WHO WOULD LOOK FOR THE GHOST TO MAKE HIS NEXT APPEARANCE AT A LITTLE RESORT TOWN SUCH AS CAPE MAY?
ENTERING THE HOLD OF THE OLD TANKER IN HIS OWN UNIQUE WAY, THE GHOST GREETS HIS COHORTS.
GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN!
WHAT THE...? GUESS I'LL NEVER GET USED TO YOU COMING AND GOING LIKE THAT!
ME EITHER!
THIS MACHINE UTILIZING THE POWER OF THE OCEAN'S TIDES, SHOULD PRODUCE THE ENERGY I NEED TO OPERATE MY GOLD MAKING MACHINE!
THRU THE AGES, MAN HAS ALWAYS DREAMT OF MAKING GOLD...NOW, I CAN DO IT! I HAVE DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF LITERALLY MAKING GOLD!


HIS INSPECTION OVER, THE GHOST ENTERS ANOTHER PART OF THE SHIP TO TEST YET ANOTHER DEVICE...
NOW TO SEE IF THIS IS IN A-OK ORDER!
ONCE I'VE LURED CAPTAIN ATOM AND NIGHTSHADE INTO THIS FORCE FIELD, IT WILL BE THE END OF THEM!
WHO COULD GUESS THAT MY BEING KIDNAPPED BY PUNCH AND JEWELEE WOULD TURN OUT TO BE SUCH A STROKE OF LUCK!
THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY SOME OTHER PEOPLE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GHOST!
THE FACELESS ONE IS AS CRUEL AS EVER!
AND WITH THE DEVICES LOST DURING THE LAST STORM HE IS VERY POWERFUL!
WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP CAREFUL WATCH ON THE LASER BEAM PROJECTOR SO WE'LL KNOW EVERY MOVE MADE BY OUR LONG LOST GOD!
THE FACELESS ONE IS STILL ALIVE! UNBELIEVABLE!
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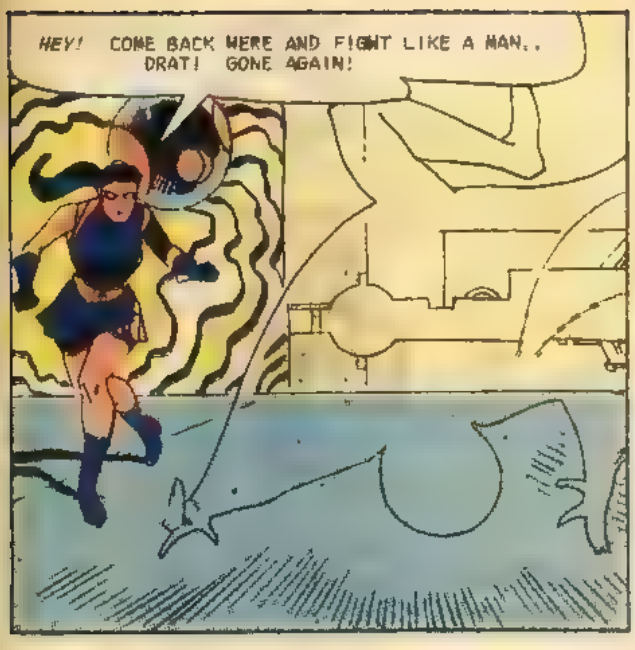
CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

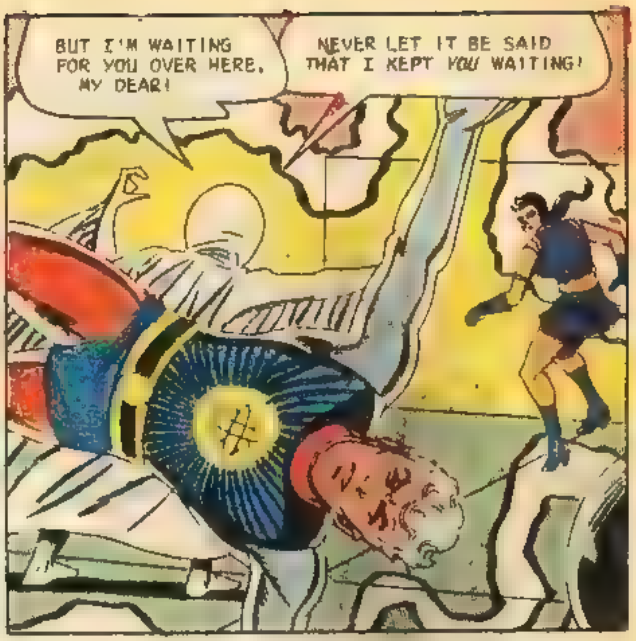
DAYS GO BY! TIME AND AGAIN CAPTAIN ATOM AND NIGHTSHADE MEET AND BATTLE THE GHOST! BUT THEIR FANTASTIC FOE JUST LAUGHS AND VANISHES! AND STILL HE HAS COMMITTED NO CRIME!
DESPERATE THEIR CHIEF CALLS THEM IN FOR ANOTHER CONFERENCE!
I MAY BE GRASPING AT STRAWS, BUT I THINK I'VE FOUND A LEAD TO THE GHOST'S HIDEOUT!
WHAT!
WHERE!
ONE OF OUR ENGINEERS HAS BEEN PICKING UP STRANGE PATTERNS ON A NEW RADAR DEVICE EACH TIME THE GHOST APPEARS! AND NOW THE CAPE MAY NAVAL STATION SAYS THEY ARE PICKING UP THE SAME PATTERN EVERY EVENING!
THEN THE GHOST MAY BE OPERATING OUT OF CAPE MAY?
HE MUST BE! BUT, WE'VE NEVER HAD A RUN IN WITH HIM ANYWHERE NEAR THERE!
I WANT YOU TWO TO SCOUT AROUND UP THERE! SEE WHAT YOU CAN DIG UP!
RIGHT, CHIEF!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY!
10

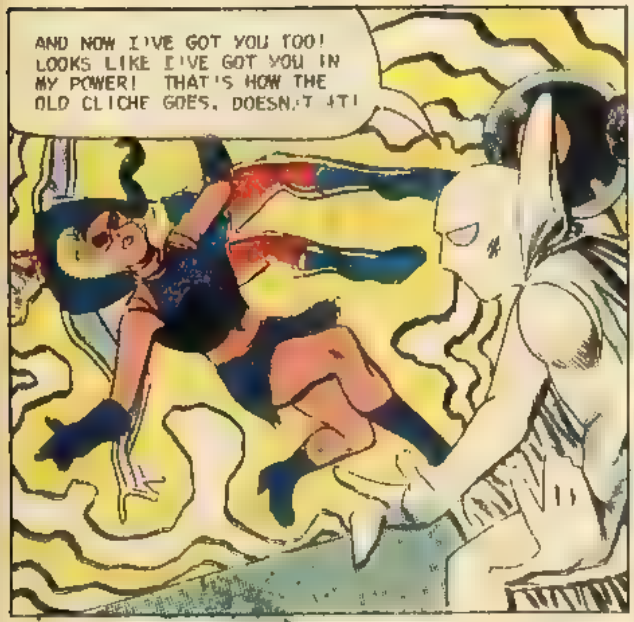
RACING OFF INTO THE NIGHT, THE PAIR MAKE THEIR PLANS AS THEY GO ALONG.
I'LL FLY ON AHEAD AND SEE IF THE NAVAL STATION CAN PIN POINT THE LOCATION OF THE PATTERNS FOR US!
I'LL CHECK THE BEACHES AND DUNES TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY!
SHORTLY, CAPTAIN ATOM REACHES THE BASE WHERE...
OFFICER ATOM! WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOU BATTLED DR. SPECTRO NEAR HERE.
NO TIME FOR THAT! TAKE ME TO THE RADAR CENTER! HURRY!
HAVE THERE BEEN ANY PATTERNS, TONIGHT?
NOTHING SO FAR! BUT, STICK AROUND, WE...
IS THAT IT?
SAME PATTERN! WANT ME TO PIN POINT IT FOR YOU?
IT SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THE SUNKEN TANKER AT THE TOP OF JERSEY!
THANKS!
LOOK AT HIM GO!
GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN ATOM.

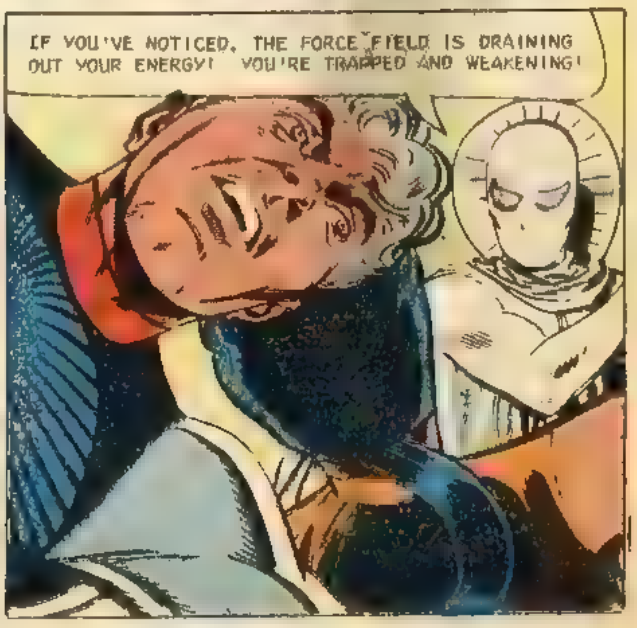
THE GHOST IS BELIEVED TO BE OPERATING OUT OF A HALF SUNKEN TANKER AT THE TOP OF JERSEY. MEET YOU THERE.
I'M ON MY WAY! SAVE SOME OF THE ACTION FOR ME!
I'VE GOT TO TRY TO CATCH HIM BY SURPRISE...
BEFORE HE HAS A CHANCE TO USE THAT TELEPORTATION BIT ON ME AGAIN!
WONDER WHERE HE S AT?
LOOKING FOR ME, CAPTAIN ATOM? GHOST HUNTING SEEMS TO BE YOUR FAVORITE PASTIME THESE DAYS!
IT SURE IS!
WANT TO TRY AGAIN? I'M BACK HERE!

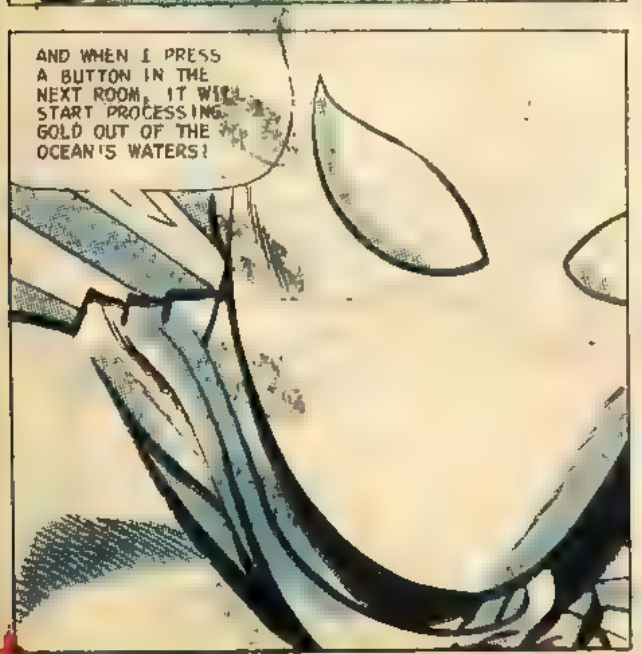
DOWN IN THE BOONDOCKS AGAIN, CAPTAIN ATOM?
IF I CAN DIVERT HIM WITH AN ATOMIC FIREBALL...
. . .MIGHT JUST GET HIM OFF GUARD!
WHAT'S THAT?
HE'S MINE!
LET'S FACE IT, ATOM! YOU'RE NO GOOD AT PLAYING MY GAMES! I ALWAYS WIN!
MAYBE IT TAKES THE FEMININE TOUCH!
WHAT THE..!
NEVER LET DOWN YOUR GUARD IN FRONT OF A LADY, GHOST! NOW HIT THE DECK!

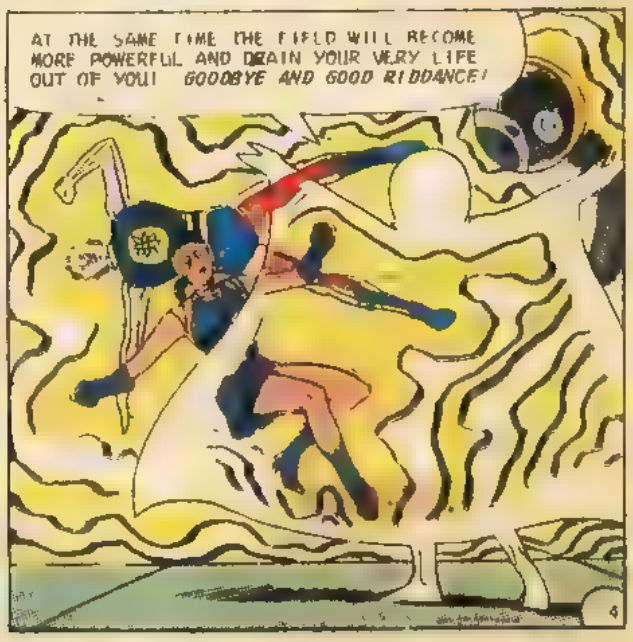

HEY! COME BACK HERE AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN.. DRAT! GONE AGAIN!


BUT I'M WAITING FOR YOU OVER HERE, MY DEAR!
NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT I KEPT YOU WAITING!


AND NOW I'VE GOT YOU TOO! LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT YOU IN MY POWER! THAT'S HOW THE OLD CLICHE GOES, DOESN'T IT!

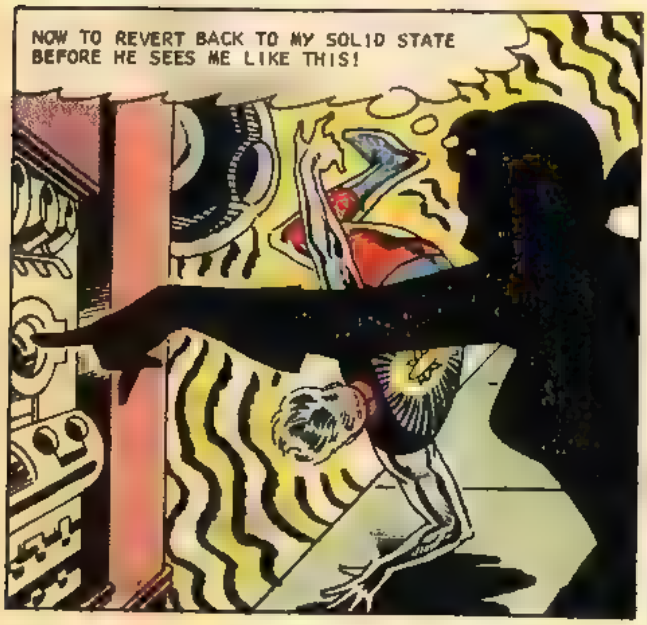

IF YOU'VE NOTICED, THE FORCE FIELD IS DRAINING OUT YOUR ENERGY! YOU'RE TRAPPED AND WEAKENING!


AND WHEN I PRESS A BUTTON IN THE NEXT ROOM, IT WILL START PROCESSING GOLD OUT OF THE OCEAN'S WATERS!

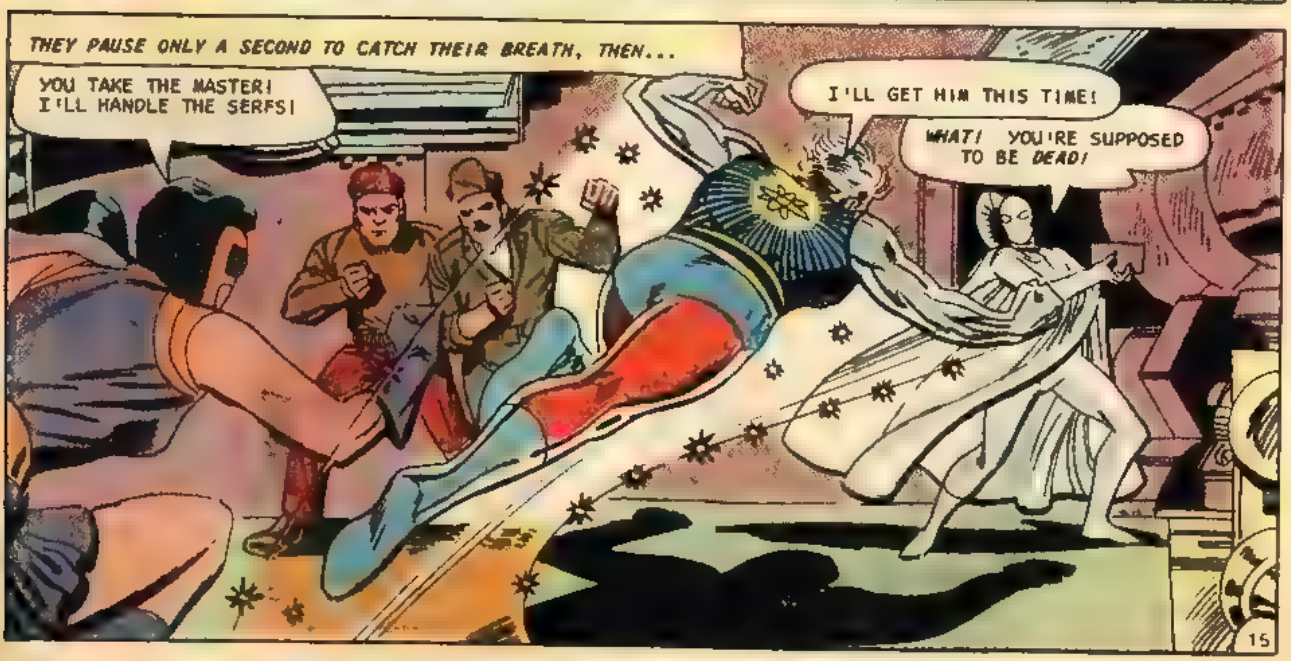

AT THE SAME TIME THE FIELD WILL BECOME MORE POWERFUL AND DRAIN YOUR VERY LIFE OUT OF YOU! GOODBYE AND GOOD RIDDANCE!

BUT NIGHTSHADE STILL HAS THAT SPECIAL TALENT ...THAT OF BEING ABLE TO CHANGE INTO A SHADOW!
GOT TO SEE IF I CAN FREE MYSELF THAT WAY! AND CAPTAIN ATOM CAN'T SEE ME CHANGE EITHER!

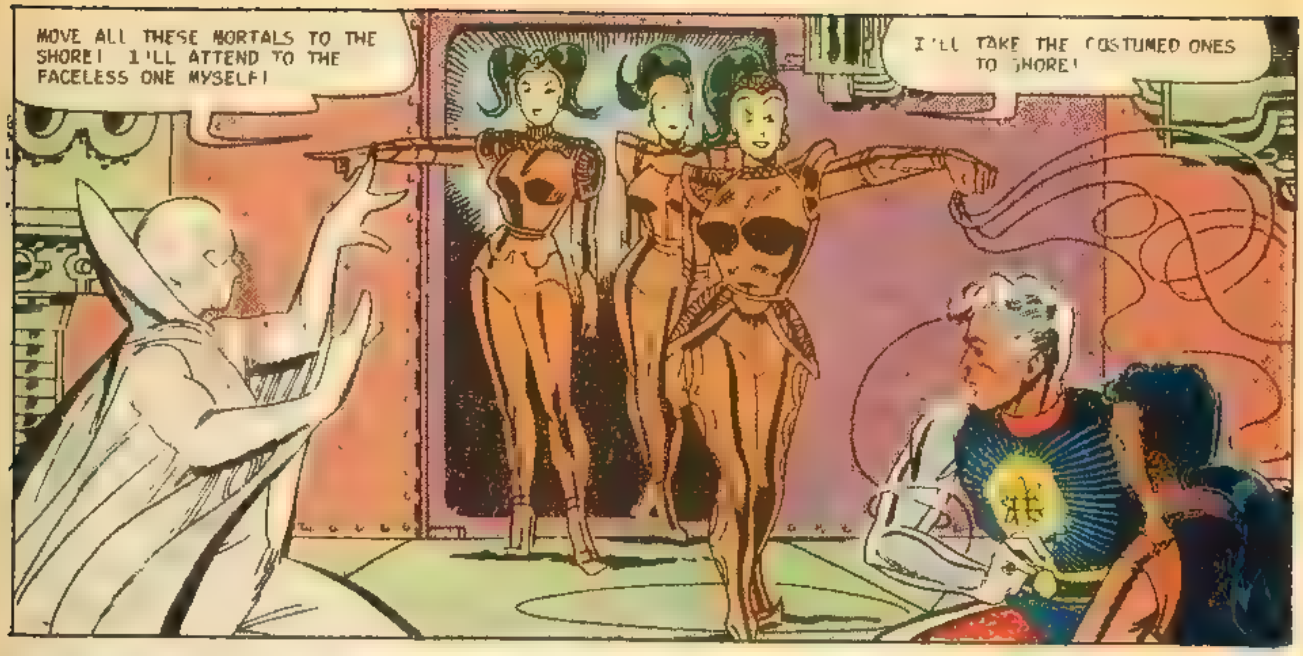
IT WORKED! NOW, TO FREE CAPTAIN ATOM!

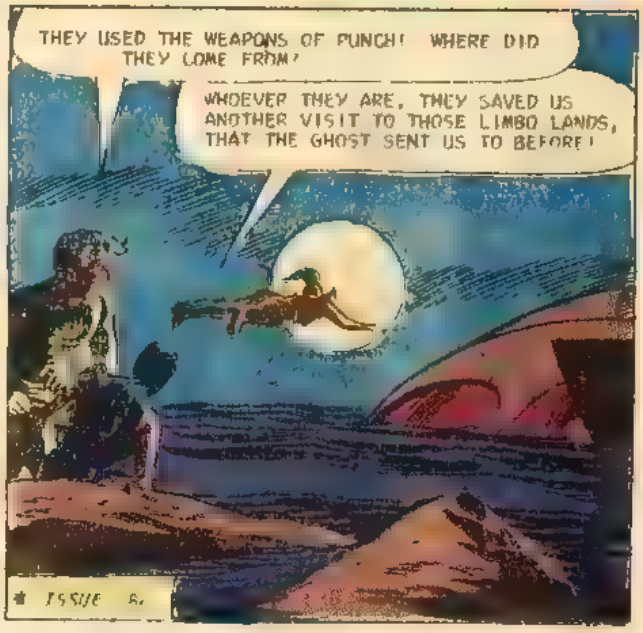

NOW TO REVERT BACK TO MY SOLID STATE BEFORE HE SEES ME LIKE THIS!

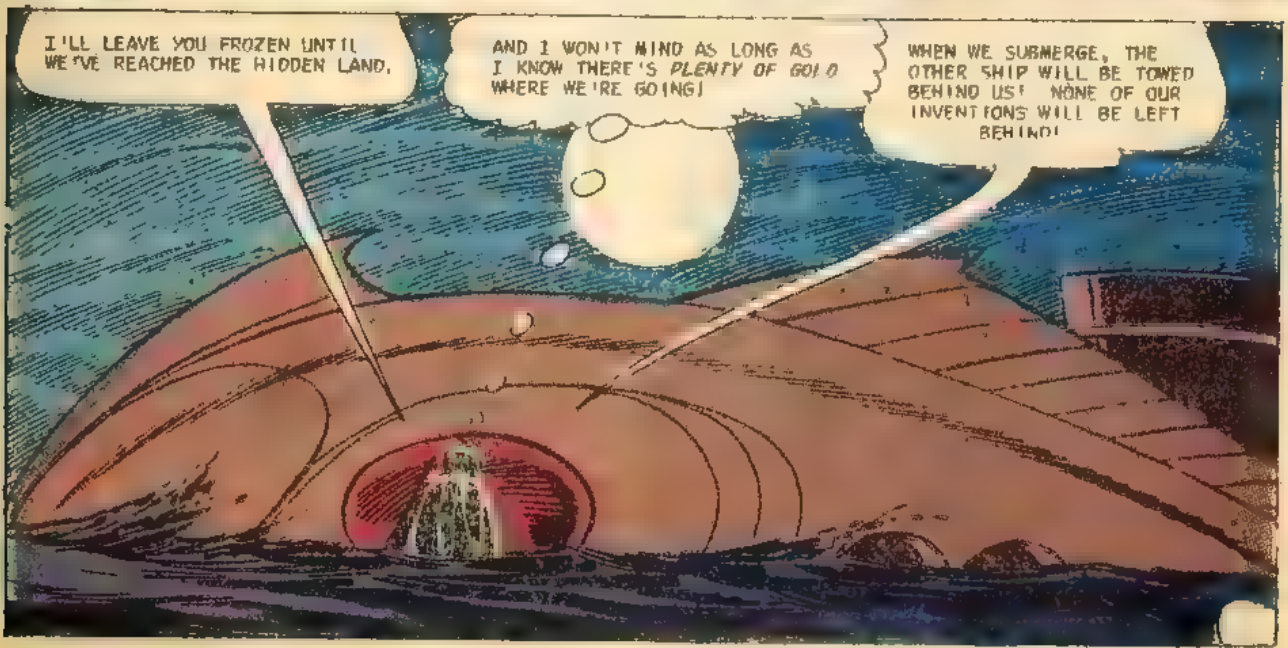
WE'RE BOTH PRETTY WEAK FROM THE EFFECTS OF THAT FIELD STILL!
BUT WE'VE *GOT TO* STOP THAT MIDAS FROM SUCCEEDING TONIGHT!


THEY PAUSE ONLY A SECOND TO CATCH THEIR BREATH, THEN...
YOU TAKE THE MASTER! I'LL HANDLE THE SERFS!
I'LL GET HIM THIS TIME!
WHAT! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE *DEAD!*

NOW YOU CAN'T TELEPORT YOURSELF AWAY!
WHY SHOULD I? SOMETHING ELSE WILL HELP ME GET FREE!
IN YOUR WEAKENED STATE, EVEN THE SIMPLEST WEAPON CAN HELP ME!
AND NOW YOU'RE GOING DIMENSION HOPPING! AND IT WON'T COST A CENT!
I FEEL LIKE A DROP-OUT BUT FOR ONCE IT PAYS!
OUFF!
EEYOW!
HANDS OFF, GHOST! IF HE GOES, I GO TOO!
IF YOU INSIST, DEAR LADY! NOW BOTH OF YOU WILL VISIT OTHER WORLDS TOGETHER!
AND SUDDENLY THE WHOLE WORLD STOPS MOVING! EVERYONE IS FROZEN IN THEIR PLACE!
WHY DOESN'T HE GET IT OVER WITH? WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR?

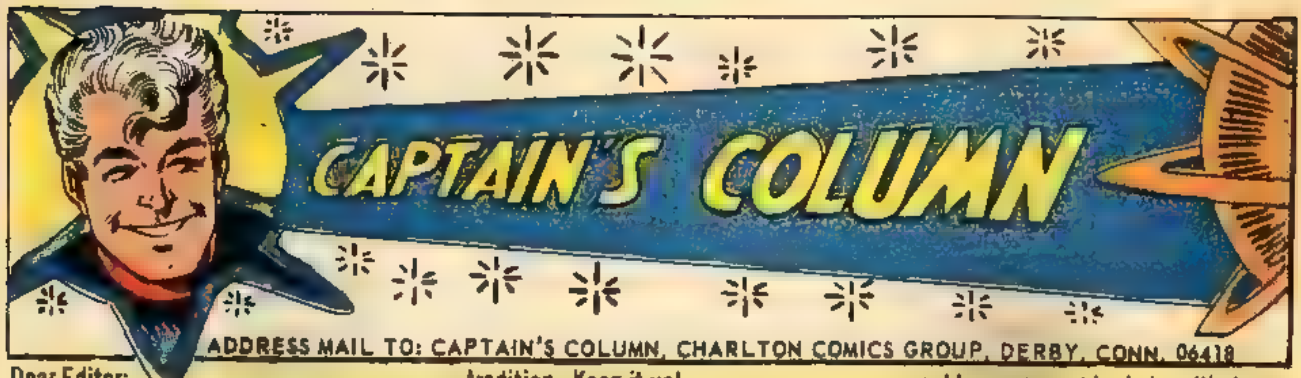



THEY USED THE WEAPONS OF PUNCH! WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY SAVED US ANOTHER VISIT TO THOSE LIMBO LANDS, THAT THE GHOST SENT US TO BEFORE!
* ISSUE 8.


I'LL LEAVE YOU FROZEN UNTIL WE'VE REACHED THE HIDDEN LAND.
AND I WON'T MIND AS LONG AS I KNOW THERE'S *PLENTY OF GOLD* WHERE WE'RE GOING!
WHEN WE SUBMERGE, THE OTHER SHIP WILL BE TOWED BEHIND US! NONE OF OUR INVENTIONS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND!

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

SILENTLY THE HUGE SHIP VANISHES INTO THE OCEAN'S WATERS. NIGHTSHADE AND CAPTAIN ATOM FEEL THEIR PARALYTIC STATE WANE AS THE SHIP VANISHES.
I'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT SHIP AND RESCUE THE GHOST!
THEY COULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR!
NOTHING! NOT A TRACE OF THEM... BUT...BUT THERE'S NOT A VEHICLE ON EARTH THAT CAN TRAVEL THAT FAST!
WHERE COULD THEY HAVE VANISHED TO?
THAT'S THE LOT, CAPTAIN! TOO BAD WE COULDN'T INCLUDE THE GHOST!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO LOOK GOOD ON OUR REPORTS... GREEN HAIRED WOMEN IN GOLDEN ARMOR!
AND SO ANOTHER MYSTERY IS ADDED TO THE AURA SURROUNDING THE GHOST! WILL CAPTAIN ATOM AND NIGHTSHADE EVER SEE HIM AGAIN?
WHATEVER HAPPENS, THERE ARE STILL OTHER DANGERS AHEAD TO KEEP THEM BUSY! DANGERS THAT EVEN NOW ARE BEING PLOTTED! DON'T MISS THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE OF CAPTAIN ATOM!
END



Dear Editor:

I have just picked up your latest CAPTAIN ATOM. I have enjoyed Steve Ditko's art, ever since he drew Spiderman, and now I will be enjoying his art in CAPTAIN ATOM.

I am a new reader, but I would like to know his history and the Blue Beetle's. Also, could you recommend any good comic book dealer? I would be interested in buying back issues of Marvel, DC and Charlton.

George Yurceff
46-04 196 St.
Flushing, New York

Comic Dealers arise!

Dear Editor:

During this past year or so, I've watched Charlton move up through the comic book ranks to what I think is #3. CAPTAIN ATOM is your greatest mag. Very good writing, topped with beautiful pencils by Steve Ditko, who's been a favorite of mine for quite a while, and sincere, accurate inks by Rocke Mastroserio.

Luckily, I've been able to get a hold of CA #76 thru #84, the current ish.

Blue Beetle is also very good, and a tremendous improvement, art and story-wise over his predecessors. I noticed Gary Friedrich's name, who I've heard is working for Marvel now.

The only thing wrong is that the coloring and printing are not very good, but I hope this will eventually be corrected, along with your distribution problem.

So, anyway, thanks for a superb quality comic in the good ol' Spiderman tradition. Keep it up!

Richard Teeter
61 Francine Ave.
Amityville, N.Y

Thanks, Rich, we'll try to keep it up. True our coloring, printing and distribution leave something to be desired. We're working on it constantly and in time they should improve.

Dear Editor.

I never even heard about Charlton comics until I happened to see CAPTAIN ATOM #83 and 84 (which I may add are all the Charlton comics I have). I paged through them and immediately bought them.

Captain Atom is terrific, and I'm glad you changed his uniform because I didn't like the uniform he used to have.

Blue Beetle is also great, I can hardly wait to see what connection he had with Dan Garret. I suggest you give him his own mag.

I hope to obtain more Charlton comics (it rates second only to Marvel on my list of favorites).

Quinton Ewert
Box 27
Spruce Lake, Saskatchewan

Welcome to the group who have heard about Charlton Comics, Quinton. Though still small in numbers we hope to continue growing.

Dear Editor

You've really got me mad! Captain Atom, my favorite hero and you changed his costume. Anyway a crook could compare his hair with brown and presto! He'll know he's Capt. Adam. You'll be hearing from another guy about his new costume. If you don't bring back his old costume, Captain Atom is O-U-T, out!

Casey Hash
Pendleton Ave. N.W.
Roanoke, Va.

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading your newest CAPTAIN ATOM and I think it was lousy. Why did you get rid of his old costume? Please get it back. Now that you've ruined him the only good hero that you've got is the new Blue Beetle. I was thinking about quitting CAPTAIN ATOM but I looked over my collection and decided not to. Now my mind is changed. I will not continue to buy CAPTAIN ATOM just for Blue Beetle.

Not to threaten you, get back Capt. Atom's old costume or I'll never buy another one of your books.

Joe Muscatello
Rt. 1, Box 329
Bluefield, W. Va.

We're sorry if we lost you, boys. We felt changes in Captain Atom were necessary and we made them. We didn't delude ourselves into thinking that everyone would welcome these changes! However, we did hope that everyone would give themselves ample opportunity to judge the merit of our decision before making theirs. Incidentally, the vast majority of the mail received to date is in favor of our changes!

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1962: Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

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6. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR

Publisher — Burton N. Levey, Woodbridge, Connecticut
Editor — Richard Giordano, Derby, Connecticut
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7. OWNER (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given.)

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8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities (If there are none, so state)

None

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	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest To Filing Date
A. TOTAL NO. COPIES PRINTED (Net Press Run)	238,100	234,500
B. PAID CIRCULATION		
1. SALES THROUGH DEALERS AND CARRIERS, STREET VENDORS AND COUNTER SALES	123,200	120,200
2. MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	67	81
C. TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION	123,267	120,281
D. FREE DISTRIBUTION (including samples) BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEANS	25	25
E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of C AND D)	123,292	120,306
F. OFFICE USE, LEFT-OVER, UNACCOUNTED, SPOILED AFTER PRINTING	114,808	114,194
G. TOTAL (Sum of E and F-should equal net press run shown in A)	238,100	234,500

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(Signature of publisher) Burton N. Levey

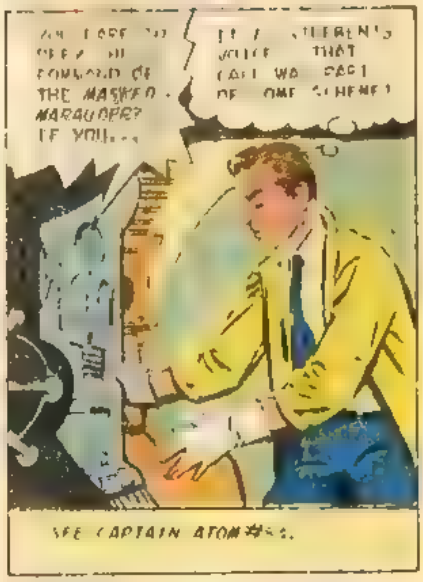
the BLUE BEETLE

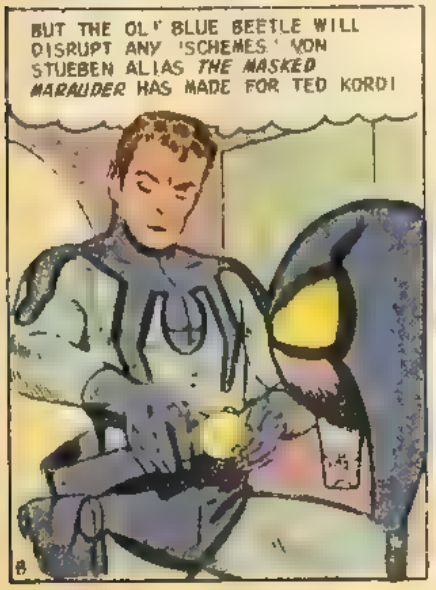
concept and art. STEVE DITKO

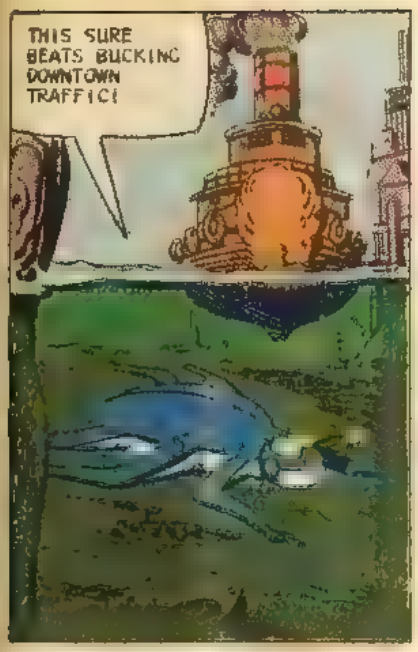
script: GARY FRIEDRICH

LATE AFTERNOON IN THE LAB OF TED KORD...
POOR TRACEY! SHE'S SUSPICIOUS OF ME AND SHE CAN'T HIDE IT... NO MATTER HOW HARD SHE TRIES!
I'LL GET IT!

COUNT WHO?...VON STUEBEN!? NEVER HEARD OF...NO, I'M AFRAID THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION... I'M TOO BUSY TO SEE YOU TODAY! PERHAPS SOME OTHER TIME!



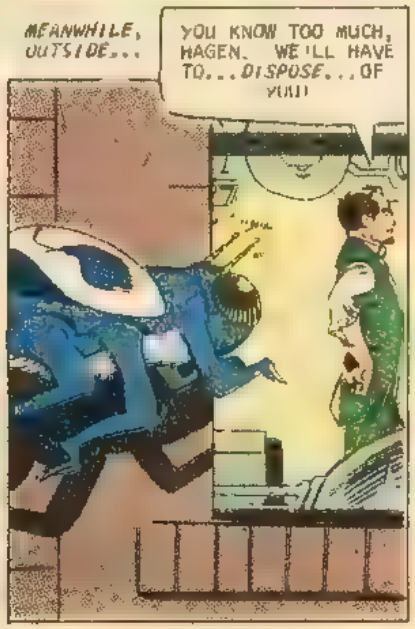



THIS SURE BEATS BUCKING DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC!

MEANWHILE, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...
YOU ARE A THIEF, VON STUEBEN! YOU'VE STOLEN THE MODELS OF MY NEW INVENTIONS.
REALLY, HAGEN! AS A MAN OF SCIENCE, YOU REALLY SHOULD STICK TO THE FACTS!

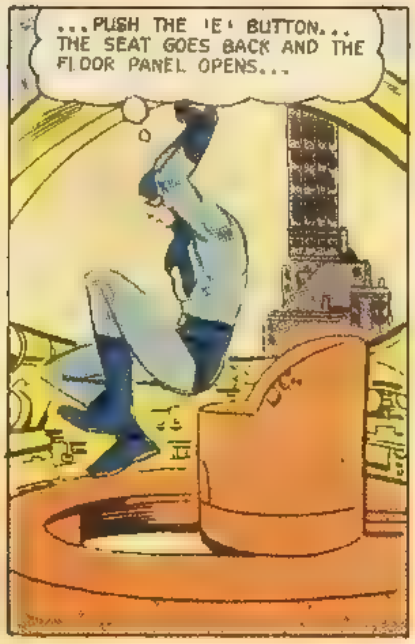
ONLY YOU KNEW OF THEM! RETURN THE MODELS OR I'LL GO TO THE POLICE!
YOU SHOULD'VE GONE TO THEM FIRST. NOW, IT IS TOO LATE, FOOL!

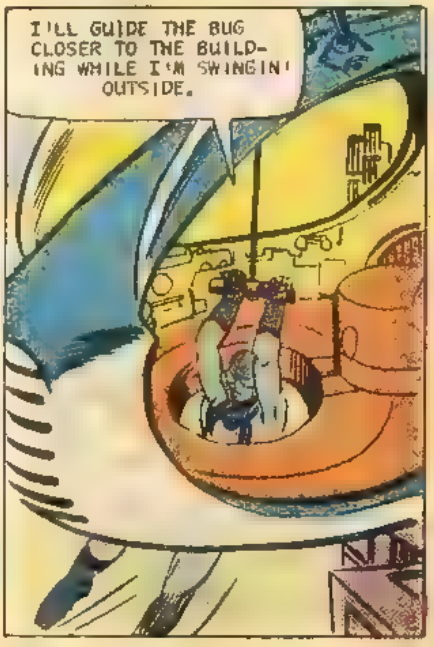
I HAVE FOUND IT TOO PROFITABLE DEALING IN STOLEN SCIENTIFIC DATA TO LET YOU SPOIL IT!
MAYBE NOT... BUT WE CAN!
YOU CAN'T STOP ME!


MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...
YOU KNOW TOO MUCH, HAGEN. WE'LL HAVE TO...DISPOSE...OF YOU!!

A MINI-TV CAMERA AND MICROPHONE BUILT INTO THE SMALL BUG PICK UP THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE SCENE BEFORE IT AND...

...RELAYS THEM BACK TO THE "MOTHER" SHIP, WHERE...
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! NOW TO GET DOWN THERE

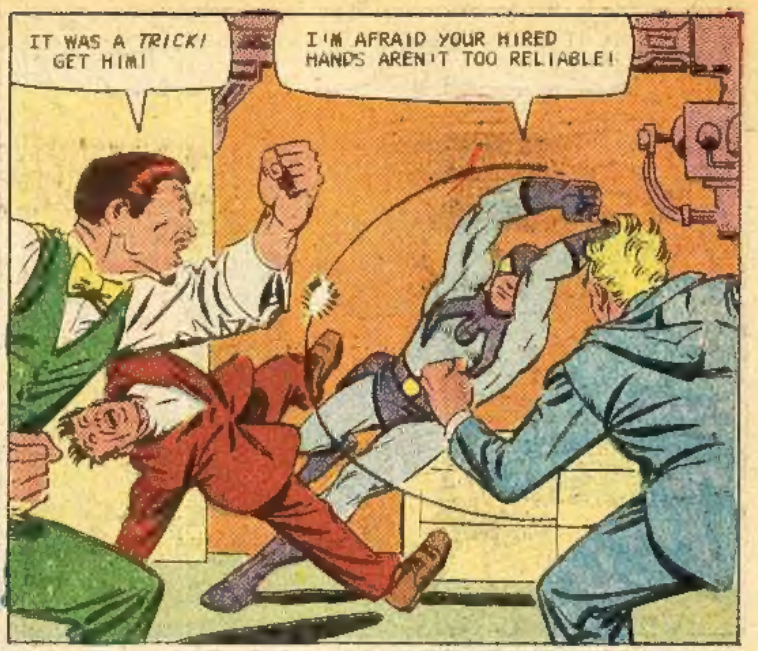

...PUSH THE 'E' BUTTON... THE SEAT GOES BACK AND THE FLOOR PANEL OPENS...


I'LL GUIDE THE BUG CLOSER TO THE BUILDING WHILE I'M SWINGIN' OUTSIDE.

I'M IN LINE WITH THE WINDOW! ONCE I LET GO, THE HAND HOLD WILL AUTOMATICALLY WIND BAG BACK AND THE BUG WILL STOP AND HOVER!
UNLESS SOMEONE'S SKY-GAZING, THEY'RE GOING TO BE AWFULLY SURPRISED!
LET'S TAKE UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF MASKED MARAUDER!
THE BLUE BEETLE! HOW DID...GET HIM!!
COME 'N' GIT IT, BOYS! PLENTY FOR EVERYONE!
I'LL TRY NOT TO PLAY FAVORITES!
NOW WE GOT HIM!
OOPS! ...CAUGHT OFF BALANCE! NOW I'M IN FOR IT!
RIP OFF HIS MASK 'FORE WE SPLATTER HIM!
IT WON'T BUDGE!
KNOWING IT LOCKS UNDER MY CHIN STILL WOULDN'T HELP THEM...
THEY STILL WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO UNLOCK IT!

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE! THE BUG REVERSED ITSELF WITHOUT AN INCH TO SPARE!


IT WAS A *TRICK!* GET HIM!
I'M AFRAID YOUR HIRED HANDS AREN'T TOO RELIABLE!

YOU'LL HAVE TO *SHOW* THESE *DROP OUTS!* HOW TO *GET ME!!*
I'LL STOP THE BLUE BEETLE...*FOR GOOD!*

OF COURSE, THIS GAS WILL *KILL THEM ALL!*

GAS! AND I CAN'T REACH HIM!
ANOTHER SECOND FOR FULL PRESSURE, BLUE BEETLE AND THEN... *PHFFFT!*

TURN IT OFF, COUNT...*NOW!*
KZZZZZZ

I SAID TURN IT OFF... OR I FIRE!
NO! NO! DON'T SHOOT!
KZZZ
IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN SEEING WHAT I CAN DO TO THEM WITH THIS?
NO! WE GIVE UP!
KZZZZ
WATCH THEM, HAGEN. THE POLICE ARE ON THE WAY!
THANKS, BLUE BEETLE! I'LL SEE THAT OUR FRIENDS HERE, WAIT FOR THEM!
A THOUGHT JUST OCCURRED TO ME! TRACEY COULD PUT ALL THIS TOGETHER! STUEBEN'S CALL TO ME...MY TAKING OFF... AND STUEBEN'S CAPTURE BY THE BLUE BEETLE!
TRACEY WON'T BELIEVE ANY STORY I MAKE UP!
AT THIS POINT SHE WOULDN'T EVEN BELIEVE THE TRUTH ABOUT ME!
I'LL CHECK THE LAB ON T.V.! SHE MAY HAVE GONE HOME!
6

OH, NO! LIEUTENANT FISHER! NOW WHAT?
...SO KORD TOOK OFF! STRANGE!
YOU'RE NOT TOO SURE OF HIM EITHER, ARE YOU, TRACEY!
I...I ADMIT HE *HAS* BEEN ACTING STRANGELY SINCE HE RETURNED FROM *PAGO ISLAND!*
BUT...BUT WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED, I...I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S CAPABLE OF MURDER! HE JUST *COULDN'T BE!*
FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!
UNTIL YOU CAN PROVE OTHERWISE, LIEUTENANT... *TED IS INNOCENT!*
THANKS, TRACEY! I WISH I *COULD* TELL YOU EVERY-THING...BUT YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITH YOUR *SUSPICIONS* THAN WITH THE *TRUTH* ABOUT PAGO ISLAND!
TELL YOUR BOSS I'LL DROP IN AGAIN... MAYBE WITH A SEARCH WARRANT! BET I COULD TURN UP PLENTY IN THIS PLACE!
HOW CAN I CLEAR MYSELF? I CAN'T BRING DAN GARRET BACK TO DO IT!
...AND I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
IT SEEMS HOPELESS BUT I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY... *I'VE GOT TO!* BUT HOW...? *HOW?*
WATCH FOR THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF THE ALL-NEW BLUE BEETLE... IN HIS OWN BOOK!! ISSUE #1 ON SALE NOW!
END